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sumption that syncope was a general process synchronous in all vowels after short stems, and is the assumption proved? Antecedent probability is in favor of *i* having been syncope earlier than *u*. In any case, the facts accumulated by Brate in his two articles on the Danish element in English and briefly indicated by Noreen in his Appendix, seem to favor slightly the priority of *i*-Umlaut.

The usefulness of the work is much enhanced by an alphabetic index to the declension and conjugation. But why not extend the index to the phonology also? Sievers has done this (for the more important phenomena, at least) in his second edition, and surely Icelandic offers at least twice as many difficulties as Anglo-Saxon.

Numerous single points need further explanation. I note here a few at random, in the hope that Noreen may be induced to discuss them. Thus, how are we to regard *merr* 'Stute'? In § 298, *An. 1*, it is cited as *\*merhið*, O. H. G. *meriha*. Why then do we find only *mer-* in the oblique cases (Vigfusson's Dict.)? See also A.-S. *miere* (*miere?*). Kluge's Stamm. Lehre, § 37, does not help us to understand why we should get sometimes *rr*, sometimes *r*. Again, what is the relation between *byrr* 'günstiger Fahrwind,' § 303, *An. 1* (§ 200, 2. b. α) and the *ambyrne wind* of Alfred's *Oros.* 19, 13? May not the unusual and unphonetic *dyntr* (more correct *dyttr*), § 197, *An. 2*, be an English loan? cf. *ðone dynt Past.* 339, 15 and *Bei IX.*, 242. Noreen's reduplication-preterites *sera*, *snera*, *rera*, § 421, will doubtless clear up the *s(r)* preterites that have puzzled both readers and reviewers of the *History of the Germany Language*, by Strong and Meyer, cf. MODERN LANGUAGE NOTES I., 124, *a*. Can the seemingly strong participles *valinn* (*velja*), § 429, be explained in connection with § 220, 2, that is, the interchange of *-nr* and *-pr* through false analogy?

The study of Icelandic stirs one up to all sorts of wide-reaching questions. But I must break off with the assertion that Noreen's grammar is a model of acumen and exposition.

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*Französische und englische Schulbibliothek.*—Ausgewählte Erzählungen von Alphonse Daudet.—Für den Schulgebrauch erklärt von ERNST GROPP. Leipzig, 1886. Gr. 8vo. Flex. cl. pp. 91. M. 1,15.

*Auswahl französischer Gedichte.*—Für den Schulgebrauch zusammengestellt von ERNST GROPP und EMIL HAUSKNECHT. Leipzig, 1886. Gr. 8vo. Flex. cl. pp. 224. M. 1,80.

*Abriss der Französischen Verslehre* von DR. ERNST GROPP. Leipzig, 1886. pp. 18. M. 0,40.

The timely series of articles in the MODERN LANGUAGE NOTES by Mr. Ferdinand Bôcher, ought to be a hint to some of our American publishers and induce them to furnish us with cheap and well selected French and German texts with adequate notes. I say cheap, because the price of the annotated text-book published by American publishers is too high; besides the notes in some of the earlier series, edited by prominent teachers, are not satisfactory. The series seem to have been undertaken merely as a commercial venture. The Germans are far in advance of us in the publication of suitable texts for class use.

The two books first mentioned above and which form part of a series of French and English texts, are well printed, in clear, large type, on excellent paper and are bound in flexible cloth. The price of the different volumes in this series ranges from M. 0,85 to M. 1,80.

I had never seen any text of this series, but had already used in French Classes, when the students were conversant with German, some texts published by the "Weidmannsche Buchhandlung," indeed, am reading with a class a selection of Victor Hugo's poems annotated by Kühne and published by Weidmann.

It is always some risk when one not to the manner born undertakes the annotation of Modern French novel writers, such as Daudet and Coppée; but Mr. Gropp's notes to his selection from Daudet's tales are sufficient and reliable. In looking over them, I notice but two slight errors: In "Les trois sommations," he explains "trique" by "eigentlich Knüttel, hier Gewehrkolben." Mr. Gropp must excuse one who has been there, *et qui est payé*

*pour le savoir*, for saying that "trique" means here "Knüttel" and nothing more. In "Salvette et Bernadou," he translates "vin clair" or "clairette" by "sowiel wie vin du pays, vin du cru." If he means in "vin du pays" the "pays" of Salvette and Bernadou who are "Provençaux" I am satisfied.

The "Auswahl französischer Gedichte" is a fair selection for school use from modern poets; Théophile Gautier, Sully-Prudhomme, François Coppée, Nadaud, Beranger, Theuriet, Musset, Victor Hugo, etc. are represented, and even Amiel, Marc-Monnier, Petit-Senn and Richard have a place, so that the book will prove acceptable to many Swiss teachers. About twenty five pages are given to the most popular fables of La Fontaine. The notes have not yet appeared, but Mr. Gropp has published in advance of the notes an "Abriss der französischen Verslehre" which in 18 pages contains an excellent and clear compendium of French prosody, such an one as I should like to find at the end of a good selection of Modern French poets—well annotated for the use of our French classes.

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*Grammaire de la langue roumaine* par V. MIRCESCO, précédée d'un aperçu historique sur la langue roumaine, par A. UBI CINI. Deuxième édition. Paris, Maisonneuve. 179 pp.

The remarkably small part taken by students of Romance philology in the study of the equally interesting and important Roumanian language, may be strictly ascribed to the fact that, up to the present time, a satisfactory exposition of the grammar of the Roumanian language, which might serve as a basis for investigations in its phonetic and literary history, has been entirely wanting. This comparatively untouched field promises a rich yield even to those of the many Romance philologists who are unacquainted with the Slavonic languages.

The grammar now before me, which has appeared in a second and, as it seems, entirely unchanged edition, will contribute but little to aid in this work. The preface by Ubicini, who

is known from several works on the Oriental question, has been taken from the first edition of 1884—a fact which at first-sight excludes it from the category of scientific works. He himself declares that the author "n'a eu d'autre ambition que celle d'être le premier à faciliter au public français l'accès d'une langue parlée aujourd'hui par plus de huit millions d'hommes." The remarks on the pronunciation leave much to be wished for. The pronunciation of the *c* and *g* which is easily comprehended by a Frenchman, takes up the greater part of those few pages, while several remarkable exceptions are not noticed at all. In the grammatical part, the author does not show the slightest knowledge of philological principles. Thus, for instance, the formation of the masculine plural is rather confusing, the endings being mentioned in the following order: *e, ă, urî* (*e* and *urî* are exceptions to the regular form *î*). The better part of the work is a small vocabulary of words of frequent occurrence, filling thirty-three pages, a number of dialogues and a small specimen of poetry (fifty-nine pages). The Roumanian grammars being almost exclusively written in German (except those by native scholars), the student unacquainted with this language may wish to avail himself of the assistance of this book which, poor as its contents are, will enable him to comprehend the elements of grammar and to gather a number of words sufficient to read easy texts.<sup>1</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> The following two Roumanian grammars, in German, are somewhat superior to the one mentioned above:

*Practische Grammatik der rumänischen Sprache* nach Ahn—Ollendorff's methode von JON MAXIMU (Hermannstadt).

*Practische Grammatik der rumänischen Sprache* von I. CIONCA. (Bucarest).

The latter contains a few extracts for reading; the former does not. (Eds.)

### BRIEF MENTION.

Prof. Paul Passy, President of *L'Association Phonétique* of France, and editor of *Dhi Fonètik Titcher* has published a brochure entitled *Éléments D'Anglais Parlé*, in which the elements of English Grammar, with extracts for reading are presented in phonetic transcription according to the principles for the practi-